

## **PREFACE**

Questions about the content of this Report, as well as requests for more detailed information, should be directed to Dr. Deng Bang Lee, SCAG's Manager of Regional Transportation Modeling, at (213) 236-1855 or via e-mail at [lee@scag.ca.gov](mailto:lee@scag.ca.gov).

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is a voluntary association of six counties (Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Imperial) and of 187 cities within those counties. SCAG's organizational purpose is cooperative planning and governmental coordination at the regional level. SCAG is also mandated by State and federal law to plan and implement a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which is to be updated every three years, and to identify Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) for incorporation into the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the South Coast Air Basin.

This Report describes how SCAG forecasts travel behavior for the Southern California Region using computer-based software programs. The specific focus of this report is on the transportation modeling procedures that have been used to produce travel forecasts for the Year 2003. The Year 2003 model results have been compared to other independent sources of travel data within the Region, such as auto and truck traffic counts, transit boarding counts, Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) from Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS), speed data from Freeway Performance Measurement System (PeMS), and other travel survey data.

Year 2003 is the "base year" for the transportation planning period. This model base year is also being applied as part of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) update, and in Congestion Management Programs (CMPs) prepared by individual counties within the Southern California Region.

The Regional Transportation Model provides a common foundation for transportation planning and decision making by SCAG and other agencies within the Region. The Year 2003 base year travel data contained in this report will be referenced by, and of interest to the general public, as well as local, State, and federal agencies involved in transportation planning and traffic engineering. A number of State, subregional, and local agencies in the SCAG Region also perform travel demand model forecasting for their own transportation planning and engineering purposes. These modeling programs require a high degree of coordination and cooperation with SCAG's Regional modeling program. State agencies involved in travel forecasting include the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Districts 07, 08, 11, and 12. Subregional agencies include the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), the County of Orange Environmental Management Agency, and others. Local agencies include cities and counties within the Region also maintain transportation modeling programs. Several of these agencies have contributed directly to preparation of SCAG's Year 2003 Model Validation.